2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

4 May 2010

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Implementation of article VI

Report submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with sub-paragraph 12 of paragraph 15 in the chapter on article VI of the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and deals with measures that have been taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement article VI of the Treaty and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that reporting, as envisaged in step 12 of the agreed practical steps, provides an essential element to ascertain the implementation of obligations assumed under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Islamic Republic of Iran holds the view that the objectivity of our analysis on the progress towards the goal of nuclear disarmament would be best served through adoption of a format properly defining categories of information required within the review strengthening process.

3. One of the important elements of step 12 is that the 2000 Review Conference recalled the advisory opinion of 8 July 1996 of the International Court of Justice in conjunction with the implementation of article VI of the Treaty. As the Court stipulated in its advisory opinion in 1996, "the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law", and "there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control". The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the importance and validity of the advisory opinion of the Court as a universal disarmament obligation of States parties and non-parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and accordingly believes that, while reporting on the implementation of article VI of the Treaty is important, it shall not substitute the fulfilment of the obligation of nuclear disarmament under article VI. It is disappointing that 40 years after the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the obligations under article VI have yet to be fulfilled. More than 60 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the long-lasting threat to human survival from nuclear weapons continues to be the greatest one to humanity. The international community is gravely concerned about the lack of progress in achieving nuclear disarmament.

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Unfortunately, long after the end of the cold war, some tens of thousands of nuclear weapons still exist, many on high-alert status.

Iran's approach towards the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

4. The Islamic Republic of Iran signed and ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1969 and 1970. In June 1973, in accordance with paragraph 1 of article III of the Treaty, Iran concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Ratification of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons before its entry into force and early conclusion of the Safeguards Agreement clearly demonstrate our long-standing support and commitment as a non-nuclear-weapon State to this fundamental instrument.

5. In 1974, Iran was the first country in the Middle East region to initiate the idea of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone, which was followed vigourously by the resolutions of the General Assembly.

6. The Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled its obligations under all provisions of the Treaty with the hope of helping the integrity and universality of the Treaty regime and achieving its fundamental objectives. Iran's position to renounce the nuclear option, as a matter of principle, and place its peaceful nuclear facilities under the full scope of the Safeguards Agreement is a clear manifestation of our commitment to a strong Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Iran considers the acquiring, development and use or threat of use of nuclear weapons inhuman, immoral, illegal and against its very basic principles. Nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's defence doctrine because of our commitment to our contractual obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and we believe they do not add to Iran's security.

7. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that all provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are of equal importance. Maintaining the balance of the rights and obligations enshrined in the Treaty preserves its integrity, enhances its credibility and encourages the Treaty's universality and full implementation. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the current selective, discriminatory and non-balanced approach towards the Treaty, reflected in particular in the recent decision of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and through instrumental use of the Security Council by some veto-holders such as in the adoption of resolution 1887 (2009), has seriously jeopardized this fundamental regime on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

8. In accordance with the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference, nuclear-weapon States made an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The practical steps for the systematic and progressive implementation of article VI of the Treaty, as agreed in the 2000 Review Conference, should be vigourously pursued by nuclear-weapon States. Therefore, no action shall be made by nuclear-weapon States, in contravention of those obligations. Regrettably, and despite the pledges on nuclear disarmament made by the new Administration of the United States of America, a review of the new United States nuclear policy shows a reverse trend. The continued emphasis of the new United States Nuclear Posture Review on maintaining nuclear weapons and the obsolete deterrence policy, new extraordinary budget allocations to the modernization of the United States arsenals, no movement towards ratification of

the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and raising new excuses for keeping nuclear weapons in the new Nuclear Posture Review, are clear indications of the continued policy of the United States to evade its obligation to eliminate its nuclear arsenals. Furthermore, the United Kingdom Trident Project to build a new generation of nuclear armed submarines and the announced policy of France to modernize all branches of its nuclear forces including producing new nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines, and its announcement that it would develop new nuclear plans to modernize nuclear arsenals and the army and will spend 377 billion euros on this plan until 2020, are all flagrant violations of international law, obligations under article VI of the Treaty and the 1995 decision on principles and objectives for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as well as the commitments made by the nuclear-weapon States in the 2000 Review Conference.

9. Another negative development in the framework of joint research on nuclear warheads between two nuclear-weapon States, the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is another grave concern for non-nuclear-weapon States and demonstrates serious non-compliance with article I of the Treaty. According to the data published on 9 February 2009, the United States military has been using Britain's atomic weapons facility to carry out research into its own warhead programme. In this regard, the United States defence officials have declared that "very valuable" warhead research has been taking place at the Atomic Weapon Establishment at Aldermaston in Berkshire as part of an ongoing and secretive deal between British and American Governments. Such events clearly demonstrate the non-compliance of both countries and their reluctance in discharging their legal obligations under the Treaty provisions.

10. The States parties to the Treaty are also concerned about the efforts of some nuclear-weapon States to reinterpret article VI of the Treaty and to make their obligations conditional, including the statements of the United States representative in the First Committee during the sixty-second session of the General Assembly and that of the United Kingdom Secretary of Defence in February 2008 at the Conference on Disarmament.

11. In addition, the United States has continuously refrained from giving positive response to the demand of the international community to start negotiations on the treaty of negative security assurances and the treaty on nuclear disarmament. Instead, the United States is increasingly devoting billions of dollars for programmes of vertical proliferation of its nuclear arsenals. Furthermore, by continuing the deployment of hundreds of nuclear weapons, planning for the deployment of nuclear warheads and defence missile systems in other countries and training the air forces of those countries to deliver these weapons in the framework of military alliances, which are violations of the Treaty confessed to in the new United States Nuclear Posture Review, and by transferring nuclear technology and materials to the non-parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons whose nuclear facilities are operating outside IAEA full-scope safeguards monitoring, the United States is in non-compliance with article I of the Treaty, which stipulates that each nuclear-weapon State party to the Treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons, and with article VI, which sets out the complete disarmament commitments of the nuclear-weapon States.

12. It should be highlighted that any reduction of nuclear weapons, whether strategic or non-strategic, should be in an internationally verifiable and irreversible

manner. Needless to say, that such a reduction in nuclear weapons can never be a substitute to the main obligation of nuclear-weapon States, namely, total elimination of nuclear weapons. As reiterated and as a first step, a real change was expected to the aggressive Nuclear Posture Review and removal of the emphasis on the old doctrine of nuclear deterrence but the new United States Nuclear Posture Review failed to do so and, while placing emphasis on maintaining nuclear weapons, repeated the obsolete doctrine of deterrence. Since there is no mechanism to internationally verify the unilateral, bilateral and multilateral declarations or agreements regarding the fulfilment of nuclear disarmament obligations, the Review Conference should also establish a standing committee for monitoring and verifying the implementation of the commitments of nuclear-weapon States under article VI of the Treaty.

Measures taken to implement article VI of the Treaty

13. The Islamic Republic of Iran has actively participated in international efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Initiatives taken towards this noble goal have always enjoyed our full support. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran sponsored General Assembly resolution 64/31 entitled "Follow-up to nuclear disarmament obligations agreed to at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons". In adopting this resolution, the Assembly called, inter alia, for practical steps to be taken by all nuclear-weapon States that would lead to nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability and, based on the principle of undiminished security for all:

(a) Further efforts to be made by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally;

(b) Increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon States with regard to nuclear weapons capabilities and the implementation of agreements pursuant to article VI of the Treaty and as a voluntary confidence-building measure to support further progress in nuclear disarmament;

(c) The further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process;

(d) Concrete agreed measures to reduce further the operational status of nuclear weapons systems;

(e) A diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies so as to minimize the risk that these weapons will ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination;

(f) The engagement, as soon as appropriate, of all the nuclear-weapon States in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons.

14. Iran has also voted in favour of the relevant General Assembly resolutions such as resolution 64/59 entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons"; resolution 64/26 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East; resolution 64/27 on the conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; resolution 64/57 entitled "Towards a

nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments"; resolution 64/53 on nuclear disarmament; resolution 64/37 on reducing nuclear danger; resolution 64/29 entitled "Treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices"; resolution 64/66 on the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East; resolution 64/69 on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty; resolution 64/55 on follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*; resolution 63/41 entitled "Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems"; resolution 64/44 entitled "Nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas"; resolution 63/63 entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia"; resolution 64/39 entitled "Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Bangkok Treaty)"; resolution 62/16 entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)"; resolution 62/15 entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty"; resolution 64/35 entitled "International Day against Nuclear Tests"; resolution 64/52 entitled "Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and Mongolia"; and relevant resolutions adopted in other international forums.

15. In order to promote the cause of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the Islamic Republic of Iran also held an International Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation on 17 and 18 April 2010 in Tehran, which, inter alia, examined the current challenges towards the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments and finding mechanisms to realize the lofty goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

16. In line with other members of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Islamic Republic of Iran has in various forums, including the International Court of Justice, made its position clear that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is contrary to international law and is therefore illegal. The Islamic Republic of Iran has continuously supported the resolution adopted annually since 1999, on follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*.

17. Iran fully supports the early establishment of a subsidiary body in the Conference on Disarmament, with a mandate to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time limit, including through a nuclear weapons convention, as a concrete step for nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we reiterate our call for the establishment, as the highest priority and as soon as possible, of an ad hoc committee with a negotiating mandate on nuclear disarmament in the Conference on Disarmament. Such negotiations must lead to legally prohibit, once and for all, the possession, development and stockpiling of nuclear weapons by any country and provide for the destruction of such inhuman weapons. Until the conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention the nuclear-weapon States must fulfil their obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and refrain from:

- Any kind of development and research on nuclear weapons
- Any threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States
- Any modernization of nuclear weapons and their facilities

– Deployment of nuclear weapons in the territories of other countries

– Maintaining their nuclear weapons in the trigger-alert situation.

18. Owing to the significant role that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones plays in achieving a world entirely free from nuclear weapons, Iran, in 1974, initiated the resolution for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. Since 1980, this resolution has been adopted annually by consensus in the General Assembly. However, the Zionist regime, confident of the political and military support of the United States through its persistent rejection of accession to any international disarmament instrument, and in particular the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, remains the main obstacle to the establishment of such a zone.

19. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that due to lack of any mechanism to implement article VI and to verify the compliance of nuclear-weapon States, in particular in the light of the current behaviour of some nuclear-weapon States in developing new types of nuclear weapons, one of the pillars of the Treaty is in danger. Therefore, a verifiable mechanism should be established to verify the compliance of nuclear-weapon States to the Treaty.

2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

5 May 2010

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New York, 3-28 May 2010

Note verbale dated 5 May 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Conference

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and has the honour to attach a statement on behalf of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America for inclusion as a document of the Conference (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 5 May 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Conference

Statement by the People's Republic of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference

1. The People's Republic of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America reaffirm their strong and unswerving support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on the occasion of the eighth Review Conference of the Treaty.

2. The Treaty is fundamental in protecting global peace and security from the threat of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. It has served the international community well for the past four decades. It remains the bedrock of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, the collective pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We stress the importance that all States parties fully implement and comply with the Treaty, and we reaffirm our unequivocal commitment to the Treaty and to strengthening the Treaty at the Review Conference so that it can effectively address the current and pressing challenges that we face.

3. We also reaffirm our commitment to carry on the results of the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences. We welcome the constructive discussions and positive atmosphere at the preparatory committees of the eighth review cycle and the agreement in New York in May 2009 of an agenda and rules of procedure for this Review Conference. We believe this, together with the success of the Security Council summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament and the unanimous adoption of resolution 1887 (2009), demonstrates the international community's shared commitment to seeking a safer world for all and to creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, in accordance with the goals of the Treaty, in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all.

4. We attach great importance to achieving the universality of the Treaty. We urge those States that are not parties to the Treaty to accede as non-nuclear-weapon States and, pending accession to the Treaty, to adhere to its terms. We stand ready to work with parties to engage the non-parties with a view to achieving this goal.

5. As nuclear-weapon States, we reaffirm our enduring commitment to the fulfilment of our obligations under article VI of the Treaty and our continuing responsibility to take concrete and credible steps towards irreversible disarmament, including provisions for verification. We recall our wide-ranging discussion in London in September 2009 of the confidence-building, verification and compliance challenges associated with achieving further progress towards disarmament and non-proliferation and steps to address those challenges. We recall the unprecedented progress and efforts made by the nuclear-weapon States in nuclear arms reduction, disarmament, confidence-building and transparency since the end of the Cold War and note with satisfaction that stocks of nuclear weapons are now at far lower levels

than at any time in the past half-century. Our individual contributions to systematic and progressive efforts in this respect have been and will be highlighted by each of us nationally. All other States must contribute to fulfilling these disarmament goals by creating the necessary security environment, resolving regional tensions, promoting collective security and making progress in all the areas of disarmament.

6. We support the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague. When it is fully implemented, the Treaty will result in the lowest number of deployed nuclear weapons since the 1950s. We believe it to be a significant step in the implementation of article VI that will promote international stability and undiminished security for all through mutual trust, openness, predictability and cooperation, and thus help create the conditions for moving towards our disarmament goals and build a strong basis for addressing the threats of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism.

7. We reaffirm our determination to abide by our respective moratoriums on nuclear test explosions before the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and call on all States to refrain from conducting a nuclear test explosion. The moratoriums, though important, are not a substitute for legally binding commitments under the Test-Ban Treaty. We will continue our efforts aimed at early entry into force of the Treaty and achievement of its universality and call upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify this Treaty. We recognize that one key element in the effective implementation of article VI and in the prevention of nuclear proliferation is the negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty. Such a treaty would help cut off the most important building blocks needed for nuclear weapons. We call for early commencement of negotiations on the fissile material cut-off treaty at the Conference on Disarmament.

8. We emphasize the importance of the prohibition of chemical, biological and toxin weapons in realizing the objective of article VI and urge all countries which have yet to do so to sign, ratify and bring into force the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

9. The proliferation of nuclear weapons undermines the security of all nations. It sets back the cause of disarmament, in particular nuclear disarmament, and imperils the prospects for strengthening international cooperation in nuclear energy, including the role we wish to see such cooperation play in combating climate change and ensuring sustainable development of nuclear energy. We reaffirm that all States parties must ensure strict compliance with their non-proliferation obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and work actively to ensure that others comply with their non-proliferation obligations.

10. The proliferation risks presented by the Iranian nuclear programme remain of serious concern to us. We underscore the importance of the full and immediate compliance of the Islamic Republic of Iran with its international obligations. We urge the Islamic Republic of Iran to respond to the concerns of the international community by complying promptly and fully with the relevant Security Council resolutions and with the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We strongly urge the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to fulfil the commitments under the Six-Party Talks, including the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in accordance with the September 2005 Joint Statement, and we reaffirm our firm support for the Six-Party Talks. We

remain determined to achieve the satisfactory resolution of these dossiers through diplomatic means.

11. We underline the fundamental importance of an effective IAEA safeguards system to prevent nuclear proliferation and to facilitate cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We call on all non-nuclear-weapon States that have not yet done so to bring into force a comprehensive safeguards agreement, as provided for in article III, or a modified small quantities protocol at the earliest opportunity. We welcome the fact that 131 States have signed an additional protocol and that 98 States have an additional protocol in force. We note the view of IAEA that it cannot credibly verify the absence of undeclared nuclear activities without an additional protocol and call on all States that have yet to do so to take the necessary steps to bring the protocol into force. We believe that the comprehensive safeguards agreement with an additional protocol should become the universally recognized verification norm and are ready to offer the necessary support. We affirm our support for the new Director General of IAEA and will work with him to enhance the Agency's capabilities. We remain committed to ensuring that IAEA has the necessary resources and authority to fulfil its safeguards responsibilities, including deterring and detecting non-compliance. Where non-compliance is established by the IAEA Board of Governors, the case should in accordance with the IAEA statute be brought to the immediate attention of the Security Council to determine whether it constitutes a threat to international peace and security. We emphasize the Security Council's primary responsibility in addressing such threats.

12. Nuclear-weapon-free zones that are established in accordance with article VII of the Treaty and the guidelines from the Disarmament Commission's 1999 session and are fully complied with have made and continue to make an important contribution to the strengthening of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime in all its aspects and to achieving nuclear disarmament and the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. We support enhanced consultation and cooperation among the parties to existing treaties establishing zones and call for the consideration of the establishment of new zones where appropriate and in conformity with the wishes of regional States. We recognize the importance of establishing regional zones free of weapons of mass destruction. We welcome dialogue to resolve the outstanding issues related to nuclear-weapon-free zones.

13. We are committed to the full implementation of the 1995 resolution of the Review Conference on the Middle East and we support all ongoing efforts to this end. We are ready to consider all relevant proposals in the course of the Review Conference in order to come to an agreed decision aimed at taking concrete steps in this direction.

14. We urge all States to take all appropriate national measures in accordance with their national authorities and legislation and consistent with international law to prevent proliferation financing and shipments, to strengthen export controls, to secure sensitive materials and to control transfers of intangible technology. We reaffirm our support of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and Zangger Committee and note the important role of these two international export control mechanisms in securing the nuclear non-proliferation regime.

15. In 1995 we issued separate statements on security assurances as noted in Security Council resolution 984 (1995). Some of us have subsequently issued

statements about their assurances. We note the importance attached by non-nuclear-weapon States to security assurances and their role in strengthening the non-proliferation regime. We stand ready to engage in substantive discussions on security assurances in the Conference on Disarmament.

16. We believe that the threat from non-State actors' ambitions to acquire fissile material or nuclear weapons has altered the nature of the proliferation challenge. The threat is both real and urgent. We emphasize that the acquisition of nuclear weapons or related materials and technical expertise by non-State actors would constitute a threat to international peace and security. We reaffirm the importance of full implementation of Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004), 1673 (2006) and 1810 (2008), as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We call for all States parties to ratify the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, to achieve the necessary two thirds ratification status so that this amendment can come into force. We call for States parties to develop and support a coordinated global nuclear security effort as an integral element of the international community's approach to the broader nuclear agenda. We renew our commitment made at the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit to strengthen nuclear security and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism. We welcome and join President Obama's call to secure all vulnerable nuclear materials within four years.

17. We recognize the inalienable right of all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons reflected in article IV to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty and the relevant principles on safeguards. We note the increasing demand for nuclear energy and stress its potential in addressing climate change, in facilitating achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development, in providing energy security and in addressing vital non-power applications such as nuclear medicine, agriculture and industry. We underline the particular importance of international cooperation, both through IAEA and bilaterally, for States parties new to nuclear technology. We are ready to work actively with States parties wishing to develop nuclear energy for peaceful uses consistent with their Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and IAEA safeguards obligations. We welcome the outcome of the March 2010 Paris Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy and the fruitful exchanges on the challenges and opportunities associated with the sustainable development of nuclear energy.

18. We call for the development of nuclear energy in a culture of openness and transparency, which builds confidence among neighbours, and stress the importance of promoting the sustainable development of peaceful nuclear energy within a framework that ensures effective safety, security, non-proliferation conditions and arrangements for civil nuclear liability for the benefit of all. We welcome the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency on multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle, including assurance of fuel supply and related measures, as effective means for facilitating nuclear cooperation in accordance with article IV and addressing the expanding need for nuclear fuel and nuclear fuel services, preserving the competitive open market, responding to the real needs of customers and strengthening non-proliferation. We note the various related proposals that have been put forward and welcome the IAEA Board of Governors' approval of the Russian Federation's initiative and signing on 29 March 2010 of the agreement

between IAEA and the Russian Federation to establish a reserve of low-enriched uranium for supply to IAEA for its Member States. We urge the Board of Governors to agree upon further measures to this end as soon as possible.

19. States parties have the right to withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons under article X. However, we call for the Security Council to address without delay any State party's notice of withdrawal from the Treaty, including the events described in the required withdrawal statement by the State pursuant to article X. A State party remains responsible under international law for violations of the Treaty committed prior to its withdrawal. We welcome discussion of modalities under which States parties could respond collectively to a notification of withdrawal, including the disposition of equipment and materials acquired or developed during membership. At the same time we are convinced that any decision taken in relation to withdrawal from the Treaty should not lead to the revision of article X, reopen the text of the Treaty or undermine the commonly recognized principles and norms of international law.

20. Seeking a safer world for all and creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons in accordance with the goals of the Treaty will require determined, long-term international cooperation based on common interest. Our commitment to this goal is unshakable. We call on all States parties to seize the opportunity of the Review Conference to strengthen further the international nuclear non-proliferation regime by taking forward a set of concrete, realistic and workable measures, based on a balance across the three mutually reinforcing pillars of the Treaty, for stepping up international efforts against proliferation, making demonstrable progress on disarmament and sharing in the benefits of peaceful nuclear cooperation. We will work closely with States parties at and beyond this Conference towards achieving the objectives of the Treaty and the goals agreed at the Conference.